

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

United Cities Gas Company ,

00-0228

Proposed general increase in gas rates.

SUSPENSION ORDER

By the Commission:

On February 17, 2000, United Cities Gas Company, a Division of Atmos Energy Corporation, filed its Ill. C. C. No. 2, Original Title Sheet, Original Sheet Nos.1 through 60, and an Original Information Sheet supplemental to Sheet No. 59, hereinafter referred to as "Filed Rate Schedule Sheets" in which it proposes a general increase in gas rates, to be effective April **2, 2000**.

It appears from an examination of said schedules that:

- (1) the Commission should, without answer or other formal pleadings, enter upon a hearing concerning the propriety of the proposed general increase in gas rates;
- (2) pending the hearing and the decision thereon, the proposed general increase in gas rates should not go into effect;
- (3) the said proposed general increase in gas rates should be suspended for a period of 105 days beginning with April 2, 2000, to and including July 15, 2000;
- (4) United Cities Gas Company should be made a Respondent to this proceeding;
- (5) the Respondent should provide to the Commission, no later than seven business days after the date of this order, a complete list of all municipalities within which the Respondent provides service, that all such municipalities should be listed irrespective of whether the municipality is itself a customer, and irrespective of whether all or merely a fraction of the residents and other entities within the municipality are customers of the Respondent: the purpose of this finding is to allow the Commission to fulfill the notice requirements of Section IO-108 of the Public Utilities Act; and

- (6) a certified copy of this order should be forthwith served upon Document Processor, CSC, 700 S. Second St., Springfield, IL, 62704, and Mark G. Thessin, Vice President - Rates, 810 Crescent Centre Dr., Ste. 600, Franklin, TN, 37067-6226.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that pending the hearing and the decision thereon, the proposed general increase in gas rates, stated in the said Filed Rate Schedule Sheets, filed by United Cities Gas Company on February 17, 2000, shall not go into effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to the provisions of Section 9-201 of the Public Utilities Act, the proposed general increase in gas rates, stated in the Filed Rate Schedule Sheets, filed by United Cities Gas Company on February 17, 2000, be, and the same is hereby suspended for a period of 105 days beginning with April 2, 2000, to and including July 15, 2000.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that United Cities Gas Company be, and it is hereby made a respondent to this proceeding.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Respondent should provide to the Chief Clerk of the Commission, no more than seven business days after the date of this order, a complete list of all municipalities within which the Respondent provides service. Include all such municipalities irrespective of whether the municipality is itself a customer, and irrespective of whether all or merely a fraction of the residents and other entities within the municipality are customers of the Respondent. The purpose of this ordering paragraph is to allow the Commission to fulfill the notice requirements of Section IO-108 of the Public Utilities Act.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a certified copy of this order be forthwith served upon Document Processor, CSC, 700 S. Second St., Springfield, IL, 62704, and Mark G. Thessin, Vice President - Rates, 810 Crescent Centre Dr., Ste. 600, Franklin, TN, 37067-6226.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order is not final and is not subject to the Administrative Review Law.

By order of the Commission this 15th day of March, 2000.

(SIGNED) RICHARD L. MATHIAS
Chairman

(S E A L)